

From: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk  
 Sent: 18 October 2018 16:48  
 To: Lloyd E (Elizabeth); REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; Bowman K (Katy)  
 Cc: Bowman K (Katy)  
 Subject: RE: First Minister at Newsxchange

Hi Liz,

Thanks for this.

I will come back to you asap detailing the rationale for Steve Bannon's invitation to this important journalism conference as well as the logistics, timings.

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot](mailto:Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot) [mailto:Elizabeth.Lloyd@gov.scot]  
 Sent: 18 October 2018 16:42  
 To: REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk; REDACTED@bbc.co.uk;  
 Katy.Bowman@gov.scot  
 Cc: Katy.Bowman@gov.scot  
 Subject: First Minister at Newsxchange

Dear [Redacted]

Firstly apologies as I wasn't able to make the conference call yesterday, however having spoken with my colleagues I now have some very serious concerns regarding the First Minister's engagement with the event and how this may be perceived.

My colleagues advised me that the two day conference will now include Steve Bannon as a Key note speaker - to be followed by a Q&A. This was clearly not part of the pitch [Redacted] made when asking for FM to speak at the opening event. Whilst it is of course entirely for EBU to determine who you choose to invite to such an event and how you enable them to present themselves, you will of course understand that this presents considerable reputational issues for me to consider.

I'd be happy to have a further chat about it directly, but as an initial request it would be helpful to know when he's appearing and the details of how you intend to enable [Redacted] presentation to be thoroughly questioned and challenged.

I understand you told my colleagues that his appearance had been confirmed publicly, I'm afraid I'm struggling to identify any public reference to it at all and I'd be grateful for that.

In addition - what if any media coverage is expected of the conference - is it closed event with no media coverage expected, or will there be reports or perhaps interviews scheduled with speakers.

I appreciate that inviting someone like that to the conference provides a certain shock value and no doubt a buzz around the conference that you would wish to generate, however it raises significant concerns for me in relation to the involvement of the First Minister.

I look forward to hearing from you - given the proximity of the event I'd appreciate information and an opportunity to discuss as early as possible to enable us to make an informed decision.

Best wishes

Liz Lloyd

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